



Election officials in the U.S. face daunting challenges in 2024. And Congress isn't coming to help

A person places mail-in ballots at a mail-in ballot drop box at the Clark County Election Department, Oct. 29, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — With election season already underway, some state election officials are expressing frustration that Congress has yet to allocate federal money they have come to rely on to help cover the costs of securing their systems from attacks, updat-

ing equipment and training staff. Election officials face a long list of challenges this year, including potential cyberattacks waged by foreign governments, criminal ransomware gangs attacking computer systems and the persistence of election misinformation that has led to harassment of election offi-

cials and undermined public confidence. Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said it was "demoralizing and disappointing" that the federal government hasn't committed to investing in this year's presidential election. "We are managing federal elections that are the foundation of who has power

at the federal level and trying to manage a lot of different competing risks and challenges that have only escalated in recent years," said Benson, a Democrat. "It makes us feel like we're on our own." Since the 2016 election and the federal government's decision to add the nation's voting systems to its

list of critical infrastructure, Congress has sent \$995 million to states for election administration and security needs. In Colorado, the money has been used to develop a system for voters to track their ballots and pay for training for election officials.

Continued on next page



Free Sangria
WITH THIS COUPON

ACROBATIC

LIVE SHOW
Wed & Fri - 7pm-9pm



SHOW TICKETS
\$35 p/p

www.rccava.com

Reservations:
+297 744 4059



Continued from Front

Florida officials designated the money for increasing security of the state's voter registration system. Elsewhere, federal money has been used to replace voting machines and add cybersecurity staff.

Most of that was allocated ahead of the 2020 election, as states rushed to boost cybersecurity defenses, and has been exhausted. A separate \$400 million was required to be spent on pandemic-related election costs in 2020.

The last chunk of election-related funding was \$75 million approved by Congress in December 2022. State allocations ranged from \$5.8 million for California to \$1 million for Nevada.

"Los Angeles elections alone costs \$75 million," said Kathy Boockvar, the former chief elections official in Pennsylvania. "I don't think election officials have had expectations of \$400 million. People have hoped for \$75 million, and it's unclear whether even that will come."

PARTISAN BUDGET DISPUTES

Federal budget negotiations have been mired in partisan disputes, with agencies mostly operating on spending levels approved for 2023. Congress has been able to approve only temporary funding plans, which cover a few months at a time. The next deadline is March 1, when the most recent temporary funding plan expires for some departments and a week later for others. The government faces a potential shutdown if new funding is not approved.

Even if a deal is reached, there's no guarantee of new money for elections. House Republicans last year listed election security grants as "wasteful spending" and did not allocate money for it in their spending proposal. Instead, they have been focused on



Election judges demonstrate the accuracy of the city's voting equipment on Oct. 28, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

legislation that would ban private organizations from providing money to election offices.

"Americans deserve to have confidence in our elections, which means elections should be free from undue private influence," U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, a Wisconsin Republican who chairs the Committee on House Administration, said at a recent hearing.

A \$75 million Senate proposal for election security is being negotiated as part of the final spending package.

"Administering free and fair elections is year-round work that takes planning and resources, and election officials on the front lines of our democracy need a steady stream of funding so that they can do things like replace aging equipment,

strengthen cybersecurity, and keep pace with new technology," U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, said in a statement.

TOUGH DECISIONS

In North Carolina, state election officials have had to make some tough decisions as the needs have outpaced state and federal funding.

North Carolina's State Board of Elections has reduced its cybersecurity staff by one employee and has been forced to cut back in other areas to meet some of the needs for election security, said Karen Brinson Bell, the agency's executive director. A team of six employees that had been handling election data has been reduced to just one full-time position, with another person helping

part-time. Some eliminated positions were funded by federal grants that are no longer available.

"Every effort we've put forward for cybersecurity has come through federal funding, and without that continuous funding and no new funding through the (North Carolina) legislature, it's hard to sustain a strong cyber posture," Brinson Bell said.

During its recent meeting, the National Association of Secretaries of State passed a resolution calling on Congress to provide sufficient money to help officials address cybersecurity threats. West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner, a Republican, said he does not support federal money for elections because "typically, it comes with strings attached."

Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson, also a Republican, said he would welcome federal assistance for cybersecurity needs if there was flexibility on how states spent it.

"I don't necessarily mind a partnership there with some funding, as long as

states are the ones that have the ability to spend those dollars — because what happens in Mississippi may be a little bit different than Minnesota or Maine or California," Watson said.

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

Kim Wyman, the former secretary of state in Washington, said federal officials should heed the lessons of the 2000 election -- when some election offices were well-funded and others less so. She said the Help America Vote Act of 2002, approved by Congress in the aftermath of the ballot confusion in Florida, leveled the playing field with \$3.2 billion in federal money going to the states. A similar investment is needed now, she said.

Wisconsin election officials have used previous federal money to provide grants to local election offices that have helped them boost their technology support and training. They also have been able to buy new voting equipment and mail ballot envelopes, said Meagan Wolfe, the nonpartisan administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

New Mexico has used federal money to help cover the costs of its election security program. Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver, a Democrat, said election officials need predictability.

"When we create programs, we want to be able to sustain those programs, not just for a year or for two years. We want to sustain them for the long term," she said.

In Minnesota, the state has used federal money to create grants for local election officials for voting system upgrades, including electronic pollbooks and tabulators. Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon said he was concerned about the lack of federal funding and the message that sends about the nation's priorities. "Nobody I know is looking for Congress to fund state elections," said Simon, a Democrat. "What we are looking for -- for election security and other purposes -- is for them to be a partner in helping us to fill some gaps." □

LIKE US ON

facebook

Facebook.com/arubatoday/

Federal student loans for nearly 153,000 borrowers are being automatically canceled, Biden says

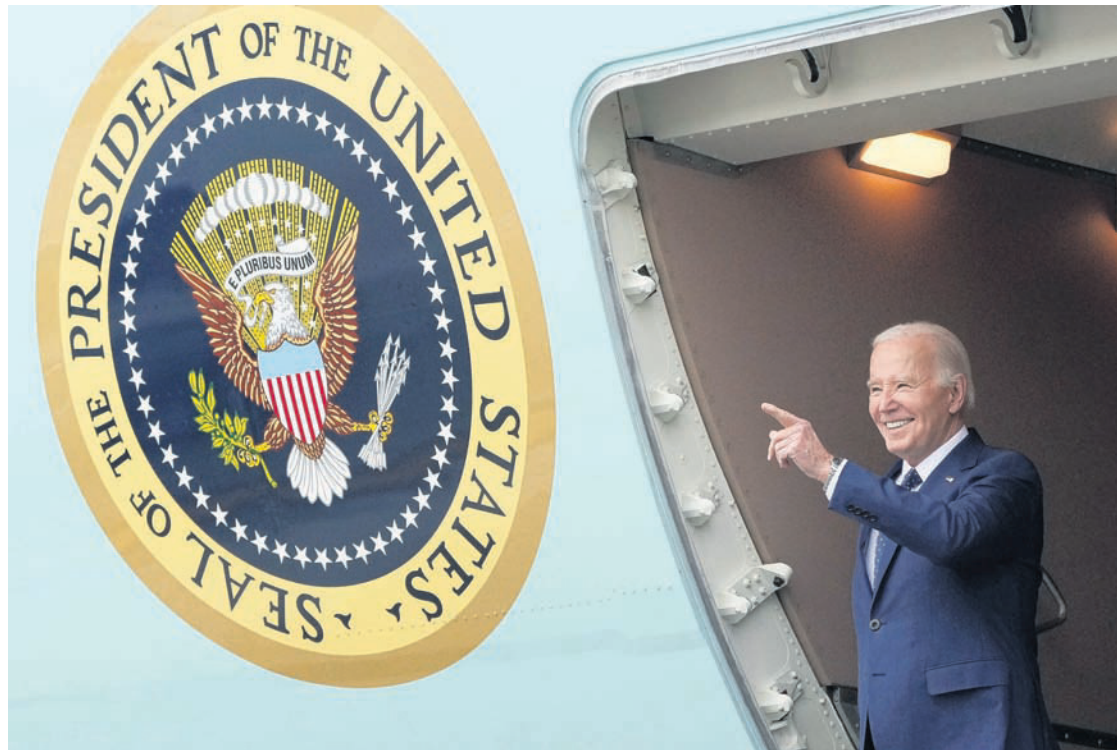
By **AAMER MADHANI** and
COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that his administration was automatically canceling federal student loans for nearly 153,000 borrowers, putting the spotlight on his debt cancellation efforts as he ramps up his reelection campaign.

Biden, who is in the midst of a three-day campaign swing through California, made the announcement as part of a new repayment plan that offers a faster path to forgiveness.

The administration began sending email notifications on Wednesday to some of the borrowers who will benefit from what the White House has called the SAVE program. The cancellations were originally scheduled to start in July, but last month the administration said it would be ready almost six months ahead of schedule, in February.

"Starting today, the first round of folks who are enrolled in our SAVE student loan repayment plan who have paid their loans for 10 years and borrowed



President Joe Biden arrives at Los Angeles International Airport, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, in Los Angeles.

\$12,000 or less will have their debt cancelled," Biden posted on social media Wednesday. "That's 150,000 Americans and counting. And we're pushing to relieve more."

The first round of forgiveness from the SAVE plan will clear \$1.2 billion in loans. The borrowers will get emails with a message

from Biden notifying them that "all or a portion of your federal student loans will be forgiven because you qualify for early loan forgiveness under my Administration's SAVE Plan."

The president is expected to highlight the SAVE plan during a speech in Culver City, California, before heading to San Francisco

later Wednesday for more campaign fundraising.

Biden in the email writes he has heard from "countless people who have told me that relieving the burden of their student loan debt will allow them to support themselves and their families, buy their first home, start a small business, and move forward with life

plans they've put on hold." More than 7.5 million people have enrolled in the new repayment plan.

The president, during a campaign fundraiser in Beverly Hills on Tuesday night, highlighted his efforts to help middle-class Americans and warned that a win in November by former President Donald Trump, the GOP presidential front-runner, could lead to a nationwide abortion ban, more Republican efforts to undo the health insurance program started in the Biden administration and policies that would disproportionately help the wealthy.

He asked his supporters to help win a second term so that he could "finish the job" in enacting an agenda that benefits American workers.

Borrowers are eligible for cancellation if they are enrolled in the SAVE plan, originally borrowed \$12,000 or less to attend college and have made at least 10 years of payments. Those who took out more than \$12,000 will be eligible for cancellation but on a longer timeline. □

Associated Press

IRS to pursue business private jet usage in new round of audits on high-wealth taxpayers

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First, there were trackers on Taylor Swift and other celebrities' private jet usage. Now, there will be more scrutiny on executives' personal use of business aircraft who write it off as a tax expense. IRS leadership said Wednesday that the agency will start conducting dozens of audits on businesses' private jets and how they are used personally by executives and written off as a tax deduction as part of the agency's ongoing mission of going after high-wealth tax cheats who game the tax system at the expense of American taxpayers.

The audits will focus on aircraft used by large corporations and high-income taxpayers and whether the tax purpose of the jet use is being properly allocated, the IRS says.

"At this time of year, when millions of hardworking taxpayers are working on their taxes, we want them to feel confident that everyone is playing by the same rules," IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel said on a call with reporters to preview the announcement. Tax season began Jan. 29.

"These aircraft audits will help ensure high-income groups aren't flying under the radar with their tax responsibilities," he said.

There are more than 10,000 corporate jets in the U.S., according to the IRS, valued at tens of millions of dollars and many can be fully deducted.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed during the Trump administration, allowed for 100% bonus depreciation and expensing of private jets which allowed taxpayers to write off the cost of aircraft purchased and put into service between September 2017 and January 2023. Werfel said the federal tax collector will use resources from Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act to more closely examine private jet usage which has not been closely scrutinized



Private jets sit parked at Scottsdale Airport Jan. 27, 2015, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

lion were 9.2%, down from 13.6% in 2012. And in the same time period, overall corporate audit rates fell from 1.3% to .6%.

there's more work to do for the IRS to make sure people are paying what they owe." □

Ghost gun manufacturer agrees to stop sales to Maryland residents

By **LEA SKENE**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A leading manufacturer of ghost guns has agreed to stop selling its untraceable, unassembled firearms to Maryland residents under a settlement agreement announced Wednesday by the city of Baltimore.

City leaders sued the company, Nevada-based Polymer80, two years ago “in response to the rapid escalation of ghost guns appearing on Baltimore streets and in the hands of minors,” according to the mayor’s office. Officials said the settlement grants the city all measures of relief requested in the lawsuit, including \$1.2 million in damages.

“Nine out of ten homicides in Baltimore City are committed with guns,” Mayor Brandon Scott said in a statement. “This settlement and the statement it sends about the harmful impact of these ghost guns is a critical victory for the effort to confront gun violence in our communities.”

A spokesperson for Polymer80 didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. The suit accused Polymer80



“Ghost guns” are displayed at the headquarters of the San Francisco Police Department in San Francisco, Nov. 27, 2019.

of intentionally undermining federal and state firearms laws by designing, manufacturing and providing gun assembly kits without serial numbers to buyers who don’t undergo background checks. It was filed the same day Maryland’s statewide ban on ghost guns went into effect in 2022 following a law change that expanded the definition of a firearm

to include “an unfinished frame or receiver.” The Biden administration in 2022 announced new federal regulations aimed at curbing the proliferation of ghost guns, which authorities say have been turning up at crime scenes across the nation in increasing numbers. The regulations, which include expanding the definition of firearms, were quickly challenged in

court by gun rights groups. Attorneys for the city of Baltimore have argued that Polymer80 falsely classified its gun-making kits as “non-firearms,” allowing them to end up in the hands of convicted felons and minors people who otherwise would be banned from purchasing firearms. While Baltimore recorded a significant decline in homicides and shootings last

Associated Press

year, city leaders are grappling with a rise in youth violence.

Baltimore leaders partnered with the national nonprofit Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence in filing the lawsuit.

“The only market for ghost guns is people who can’t buy guns legitimately at a gun store,” said Philip Bangle, senior litigation counsel for Brady. He questioned why else someone would purchase a firearm they have to build themselves without quality control checks or other measures to ensure it functions properly when the trigger is pulled. Polymer80 has been targeted by similar litigation in other cities, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The city of Los Angeles sued the company after a teenager used its products in a high school shooting that left three children dead. That case similarly yielded a settlement agreement under which Polymer80 agreed to stop selling ghost guns in California. The case in Washington also resulted in a \$4 million judgment against Polymer80 and barred the sale of its products to city residents. □

A Colorado man is dead after a pet Gila monster bite

By **MEAD GRUVER**
Associated Press

A Colorado man has died after being bitten by his pet Gila monster in what would be a rare death by one of the desert lizards if the creature’s venom turns out to have been the cause.

Christopher Ward, 34, was taken to a hospital shortly after being bitten by one of his two pet Gila monsters on Feb. 12. He was soon placed on life support and died Friday, Lakewood Police Department spokesman John Romero said Tuesday.

Jefferson County coroner’s officials declined Tuesday to comment on the death, including if tests showed yet whether Ward died

from the pet’s venom or from some other medical condition.

Ward’s girlfriend handed over the lizard named Winston and another named

Potato to Lakewood animal control officer Leesha Crookston and other officers the day after the bite. Ward’s girlfriend told police she had heard something

that “didn’t sound right” and entered a room to see Winston latched onto Ward’s hand, according to Crookston’s report.

She told officers Ward “immediately began exhibiting symptoms, vomiting several times and eventually passing out and ceasing to breathe,” according to the report.

Ward was placed on life support in a hospital. Within days, doctors had declared him brain dead.

Ward’s girlfriend reportedly told officers they bought Winston at a reptile exhibition in Denver in October and Potato from a breeder in Arizona in November, according to the animal control officer’s report. Told

that Gila monsters were illegal in Lakewood, the woman told officers she wanted them out of her house as soon as possible, the report said.

Officers working with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources sent the lizards to Reptile Gardens outside Rapid City, South Dakota. Twenty-six spiders of different species also were taken from the home to a nearby animal shelter. Gila monsters are venomous reptiles that naturally inhabit parts of the southwestern U.S. and neighboring areas of Mexico. Their bites can cause intense pain and make their victims pass out but normally aren’t deadly. □



A Gila monster is displayed at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Dec. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

U.N. top court shouldn't urge Israel to immediately withdraw from Palestinian-claimed lands, U.S. says

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The United States said Wednesday the United Nations' top court should not issue an advisory opinion that says Israel should "immediately and unconditionally withdraw" from territories sought for a Palestinian state.

Acting State Department legal adviser Richard Visek said the 15-judge panel at the International Court of Justice should not seek to resolve the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict "through an advisory opinion addressed to questions focusing on the acts of only one party."

Visek spoke on the third day of hearings at the court into a request by the General Assembly for a non-binding advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's policies in the occupied territories. He said the court "can address the questions before it within the established framework based on the land for peace principle and within the parameters of established principles of occupation law."

Visek added that the court's opinion "will have consequences for the parties to the conflict and for the ongoing efforts of all of



Richard C. Visek, acting legal adviser of the U.S. Department of State, second left, waits to address the United Nations' highest court during historic hearings in The Hague, Netherlands, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, into the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of the West Bank and east Jerusalem, plunging the 15 international judges back into the heart of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

those working to achieve a durable peace."

Earlier this week, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki called on the court to uphold the Palestinian right to self-determination and declare "that the Israeli occupation is illegal and must end immediately, totally and unconditionally."

The idea of land for peace has been the cornerstone of U.S.-led diplomacy for decades and was the basis of the Camp David Accords between Israel and

Egypt, in which Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula in return for peace and recognition.

The same principle has been applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but the peace process has repeatedly stalled because of Palestinian attacks, Israel's expansion of settlements in occupied territory, and the inability of the two sides to agree on thorny issues like final borders, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

The U.S. arguments at the world court came a day after Washington vetoed an Arab-backed and widely supported U.N. resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire of the Israel-Hamas war in the embattled Gaza Strip, saying it would interfere with negotiations on a deal to free hostages held by militant Palestinian group Hamas.

The vote in the 15-member Security Council was 13-1, with the United Kingdom

abstaining.

It reflected the strong support from countries around the globe for ending the war, which started when Hamas militants invaded southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking nearly 250 others hostage. Since then, more than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory military offensive, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which says the vast majority were women and children.

"Hamas's attacks, hostage-taking and other atrocities, the ongoing hostilities and the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and the violence in the West Bank reinforce the United States resolve to urgently achieve a final peace that includes the full realization of Palestinian self-determination," Visek said. Visek's comments were preceded Wednesday by condemnations of Israel's policies by representatives of Colombia, Cuba and Egypt. Along with the Palestinians, a total of 51 nations and three international organizations are scheduled to speak at the hearings.

The court will likely take months to issue its non-binding advisory opinion. □

Associated Press

More than \$400 million needed for western Afghanistan to recover from October earthquake, U.N. says



An Afghan girl carries donated aid to her tent, while she is scared from the fierce sandstorm, after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, western of Afghanistan, Oct. 12, 2023.

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — More than \$400 million is needed for western Afghanistan to recover and rebuild after a devastating earthquake last October that killed around 2,000 people, the United Nations said Wednesday.

The magnitude 6.3 quake on Oct. 7, one of the most destructive in the country's recent history, flattened entire villages in Herat province and also left thousands injured and homeless. Months on, survivors are still struggling to rebuild

their lives.

In a new U.N. report, released together with the World Bank, the European Union and the Asian Development Bank, estimated there is "an urgent need for \$402.9 million to support the critical recovery and reconstruction efforts in the province."

The report said recovery strategies should prioritize restoring access to basic services and building earthquake-safe housing, especially for the most affected families.

It said its assessment of the urgent needs relied on field

data, publicly available information and remote analytics.

The report represents the first joint assessment since August 2021 and showcases an international resolve to address the needs of disaster-affected communities and support their recovery.

It surveyed some nine districts with roughly 2.2 million people and offers a detailed breakdown of the numbers affected, including categories such as pregnant women, infants and people with disabilities. □

Associated Press

The number of short-term rentals in Puerto Rico has surged. A new report says that's a problem

By **DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Activists want stricter regulations of short-term rentals in Puerto Rico as the U.S. territory sees a growing number of displaced renters and a spike in housing costs, the Hispanic Federation said in a report Wednesday.

The number of units operating as short-term rentals in Puerto Rico jumped to more than 25,000 in 2022 from about 1,000 in 2014, the report commissioned by the federation said.

It found that while short-term rentals create jobs, attract visitors and lead to more transportation options, renters have faced evictions, the cost of goods have increased amid an economic crisis and some ecological areas have been destroyed during new construction.

The report calls for creating a public registry of short-term rentals, classifying them as a business and increasing the island's room tax from 7% to up to 11% and using the additional revenue to develop affordable housing. "This has gotten to a point where the



A wooden Puerto Rican flag is displayed on the dock of the Condado lagoon in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sept. 30, 2021.

impacts are really palpable in Puerto Rico," Charlotte Gossett Navarro, the foundation's Puerto Rico chief director, said in an interview.

A key factor in the increase of short-term rentals was Hurricane Maria, which pummeled the island in September 2017. Many people migrated to the U.S. mainland afterward, while scores of new investors came to the island to

buy homes and properties. That led to a reduction in housing availability and affordability, Gossett said, adding that other factors including the pandemic also are to blame.

Now, between 100 to 400 new short-term rentals are reported a month in Puerto Rico, with apartments representing 60% of properties available for that purpose. Dulce del Río-Pineda, who has lived 40 years on the

island of Culebra just east of Puerto Rico, said she noticed a big change in the housing market in the past seven years with the influx of short-term rentals.

"It's an economic benefit," she said.

"At the same time, our young people especially find themselves without any hope of being able to buy their own home. It's a way of making our community disappear."

The 64-year-old former special education teacher who now helps to run a local nonprofit said social inequality also has become more dramatic. Some homes on Culebra, a popular tourist destination, now cost \$4 million to \$8 million. A recent study by the non-partisan Center for a New Economy and the Graduate School of Planning of the University of Puerto Rico found that a 10% rise in the number of short-term rentals in a community increases housing rental costs by 7% and the property value per square foot by 23%.

"With so much to offer visitors, tourism will always be an important part of Puerto Rico's economy," said Frankie Miranda, the Hispanic Federation's CEO and president. "However, it cannot come at the expense of Puerto Rico's residents and communities."

Activists are calling for rent-control policies; restoring abandoned properties for long-term rentals; designating six or more rental units as a small inn; and designating areas where short-term rentals can operate to protect ecological and agricultural lands. □

Associated Press

Zimbabwe starts an emergency polio vaccination drive after detecting cases caused by a rare mutation

By **FARAI MUTSAKA**
Associated Press
HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— Zimbabwe began an emergency campaign to inoculate more than 4 million children against polio on Tuesday after health authorities detected three cases caused by the rare mutation of the weakened virus used in oral vaccines, including a 10-year-old girl who was paralyzed in January.

The health ministry said laboratory tests from samples collected from sewage sites in several areas of the capital, Harare, late last year showed the presence of a mutated polio virus

that originated in an oral vaccine used in the global eradication effort.

In rare instances, the live polio virus in vaccines can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks, especially in places with poor sanitation and low vaccination levels.

The number of polio cases globally has dropped by more than 99% since the global effort to wipe out the disease led by the World Health Organization and others began in 1988. But the majority of children being paralyzed by polio these days are being crippled by a virus that was originally linked to a vac-

cine. Vaccination teams in Zimbabwe are moving from house to house to deliver more doses to protect children, while others will be stationed at health facilities, authorities said.

Officials said it was the first time Zimbabwe would be using a new oral polio vaccine specifically designed to reduce the risk of the virus within it mutating into a dangerous form.

Zimbabwe aims to roll out more than 10 million new vaccine doses targeting just over 4 million children below the age of 10 in two rounds in February and March.

More than 95% of that population needs to be immunized against polio to stop new outbreaks. □

nized against polio to stop new outbreaks. □



In this file photo, a Somali baby receives a polio vaccine, at the Medina Maternal Child Health center in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Associated Press

Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito
Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the

Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area
Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby



Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok
Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy

beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close!

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar

operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on



this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle?

The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing

luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all!





Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want some-



thing special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are



set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at: info@papillonaruba.com

or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm – Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

For all menus and specials visit the website: www.papillonaruba.com. □



Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.



Bonus 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!
 \$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
 Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
 Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab



Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com



Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

The Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Renaissance Ocean Suites!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. This lovely lady ambassador was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
 Mrs. Judy Weinstein from New Jersey, United States

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites bestowed the Emerald Ambassador certificate to the honoree, presented her with gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mrs. Weinstein were:
 Aruba's year-round sunny weather

Aruba's warm and friendly people always treat her like family
 Aruba's restaurants
 Aruba's nice sandy beaches
 "Aruba is my home"

Mrs. Weinstein also shared a wonderful story with Ms. Heyliger to what Aruba means to her:
 "45 years ago my late husband and I came here on a trip run by the 32-care club, a masonic group that my husband was a member of. We knew no one in the organization, however, at the end of those 10 days we were all friends and returned every year ever since. I loved the idea of returning here yearly. We wound up purchasing 2 weeks and wound up with 9 weeks. I love this place; the people, food, and es-



pecially being away from the harsh winter in New Jersey. ARUBA IS MY HOME!"
 On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would

like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to



portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give

permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

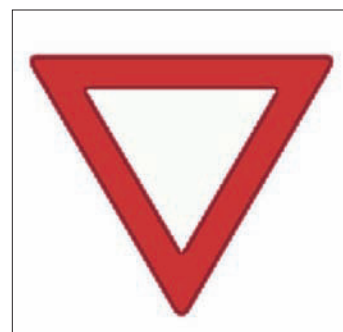
For today we received a lovely message from our lovely visitor Evelyn Brinkmann who is visiting us from Germany.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is... The wonderful and special turtles which we will protect for the future."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!

Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas
As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a

circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. **Bebouwde**

kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs
On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving

on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars,

even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

- Police: 100
- Police Tipline: 11141
- Ambulance: 911
- Fire Dept: 115
- Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000
- San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat

prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

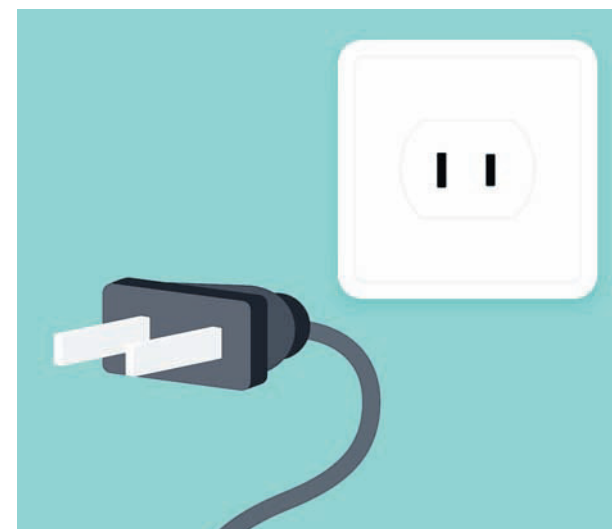
Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to

five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

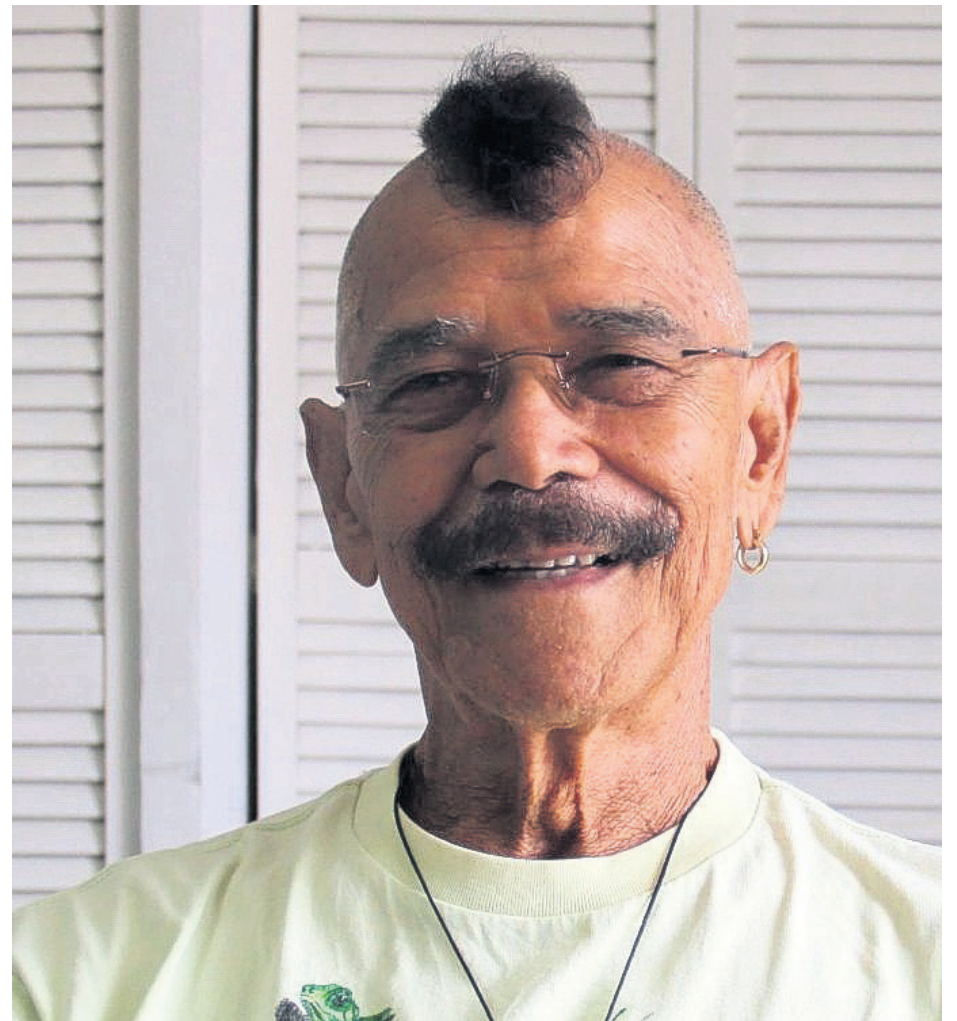
As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were

the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History



of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron

attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live



CROSSWORD

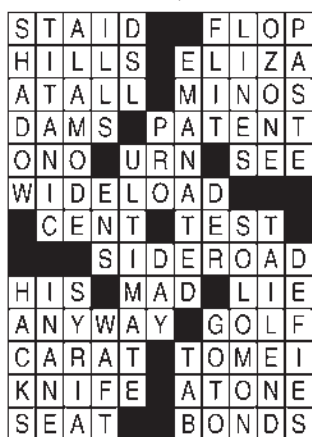
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sized up
- 6 Dominant
- 11 Full of energy
- 12 Plains group
- 13 Women's quarters
- 14 New Hampshire city
- 15 Undermines
- 17 Whale group
- 19 Fresh
- 20 Gum mass
- 23 Language of Qatar
- 25 Falafel holder
- 26 Military targeting
- 28 Bogus
- 29 Flip
- 30 Twisty turn
- 31 Stick out
- 32 Take wing
- 33 Of the lower back
- 35 Like urban areas
- 38 Warning sound
- 41 Next to
- 42 "Taxi" role
- 43 In itself
- 44 Deceived

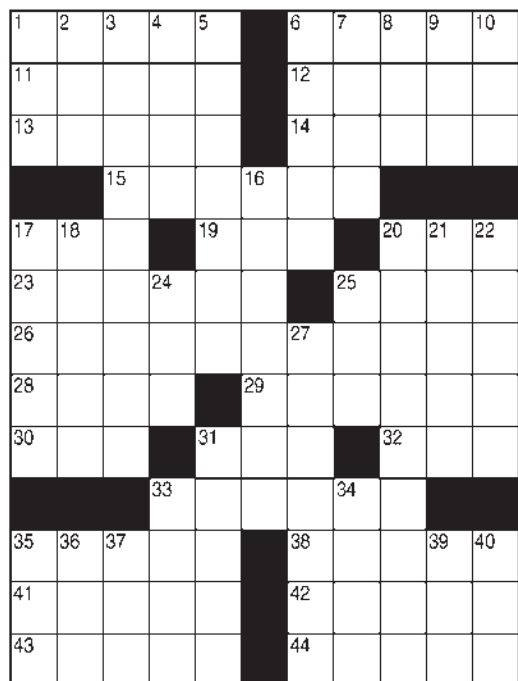
DOWN

- 1 Cheering cry
- 2 In the style of
- 3 Signs of a quick peel-out
- 4 At any time
- 5 Evil
- 6 Crooked
- 7 Isn't truthful
- 8 "The Gold-Bug" writer
- 9 Attila, for one
- 10 Reduce drastically
- 16 Propriety
- 17 Social blunder



Yesterday's answer

- 18 Verdi pieces
- 20 Crime via mail, say
- 21 Coral island
- 22 Move slowly
- 24 Garden visitor
- 25 Score amts.
- 27 Court do-over
- 31 Gavel wielder
- 33 Eye part
- 34 Soothing plant
- 35 Ray-gun sound
- 36 Cry to the torero
- 37 Negative link
- 39 2016 Olympics host
- 40 Fellows



2-22

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

U J J P S Q J Q E N K S Q , R V O N P R U
S Y S Q K J C S I J Q K F D J V F R U
W S U K R P D , I S O X U K V R E E J X Q
F S N Q K U I R K F K J E S Q N P M S .

— U K N P E S S

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GOT ALL MY BOYHOOD IN VANILLA WINTER WAVES AROUND THE KITCHEN STOVE. — JACK KEROUAC

Millennial Money: It's time to change your investment strategy

By ALANA BENSON of Nerd-Wallet

The passage of time feels like it creeps, then pounces: Suddenly, party conversation focuses on real estate, how we're going to bed earlier and our realization that we have no idea what type of jeans to wear. For years, millennials have been the butt of financial jokes: "They spend all their money on lattes and avocado toast!" and "Why don't they get a minimum wage job to pay for college like I did?" But the clichés got old quickly. And now, as millennials move deeper into their 30s and 40s, there are some things to consider changing up. Most notably, our investments.

YOUR PORTFOLIO MIGHT NEED TO CHILL

For those lucky enough to invest early on, the advice was pretty standard: Invest often, and invest in aggressive assets to take



U.S. \$100 bills are seen, Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Marple Township, Pa.

Associated Press

advantage of long-term growth. The target-date funds (those that automatically rebalance your portfolio as you get older) held in 401(k)s were typically calibrated to higher-risk investments. Maybe the most aggressive of us dipped our toes in crypto and meme stocks at some point. After all, you've got all the time in the world to ride out the highs and lows of the market when

you're 24. But now, we're more mature. And with that wisdom comes new responsibilities, like adjusting our asset allocation. Asset allocation is just a fancy phrase for what percentage of your portfolio is in each investment. For example, a 20-year-old's investment portfolio of \$100 (for easy math), might be 90% in stocks and 10% in bonds, or \$90 and \$10, respectively. □



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday

Classifieds

The Reef
Eagle beach
 3 x Condo
 2 BR 2 Bath 2sd floor
 Price : \$ 923,650 / \$852 ,600 \$742,100
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
 2 BR 2 Bath 3 rd floor
 Price : \$935,226
 2 BR 2 bath 4th floor
 Price : \$ 982,958.91
 Call: 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle beach
 2 BR 2 Bath 4 th floor
 Price :\$ 807,805.25
 2 BR 2 bath 5 th floor
 Price : \$837,128.25
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
 2 BR 2 Bath 6 th floor
 Price : \$1,6061.901.78
 2 BR 2 Bath 6th floor
 Price : \$ 837,128.75
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle beach
 2 BR 2 Bath 7 th floor
 Price : \$ 1,192,626.12
 2 BR 2 Bath 7 th floor
 Price : \$928,889.46
 Call:011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
 2 BR 2 Bath 8 th floor
 Price :\$ 1,165,755.11
 2 BR 2 Bath 8 th floor
 Price : \$961,400.59
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 Johnnypaesch@gmail.com



Casa Del Mar 2BR/2B:
 Week 2/Unit 1113 (21k);
 Week 8/Unit 1113 (19k);
 Week 8/Unit 1409 (19k);
 Week 10/Unit 1207 (19k);
 Week 13/Unit 1509 (14k); and,
 Week 14/Unit 1308 (14k).
 CDMOwner@gmail.com
 US(Call/Text): (860)992-3890

217264

Blue Residence
 Eagle beach Indigo Tower
 2 BR 2 Bath unit # 112
 Ground floor: \$ 648,500
 2 BR 2 Bath unit # 214
 2 sd floor :\$623,480
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
 Eagle beach Indigo Tower
 3 BR 4 Bath PH 1-2
 8th Floor: \$1,255,000
 3 BR 4 Bath PH 1-3
 8 th floor :\$1, 196,000
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
 Eagle Beach Aqaumarine Tower
 3 BR 3 bath unit # 221
 2 sd floor:\$782,500
 2 BR 2 Bath unit # 622
 6 th floor :\$ 719,800
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
 Eagle beach Torquoise Tower
 4 BR 4 Bath TH -4 :\$1,159,650
 Ground floor/ Duplex
 2 BR 2 bath unit#536
 4 th floor: \$710,000
 Call:011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Azure Residence
Eagle beach
 2 BR 2 Bath unit # 513
 5 th floor : \$765,400
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Oceania Residence
Eagle beach
 2BR 2 Bath unit # 423
 4 th Eagle :\$868,500
 1 BR 2 Bath
 3 rd Racket club :\$495,000
 Call:011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resorts
 Palm Beach All inclusive
 3 BR 3 Bath on the 9 th Floor
 Ocean Front WK 6 and 7
 Price :\$80 K both weeks
 1 BR WK 8 Deluxe \$15 K
 Call:011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resorts
 Palm beach
 Jr , Suite week # 2,3,4
 1 Bedroom floating week 2-17
 All inclusive
 Price studio :\$ 30 K
 One bedroom: :\$13 K
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
 Eagle Beach
 Studio WK # 4 room # 2129
 Ground floor contract expire :2047
 Price :\$7 K
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village
 Eagle beach
 Studio WK # 5 room # 8105
 Building C with elevator
 1 st floor with 13 weeks remain- ing
 Price : \$7 K
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
 Eagle beach
 1 BR WK # 9 Room # 2118
 Studio WK # 9 Room # 2117
 22 weeks remaining
 Price : 1 BR \$9 K studio \$7 K
 Call:011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village golf
 Eagle beach
 1 BR 2 Bath Birdie 3
 WK # 11 room # 2215
 22 weeks remaining
 Price :\$ 9 K
 Call: 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Dutch village
 Eagle beach
 Studio WK # 12 room # 33
 30 weeks remaining \$9 K
 Studio WK # 15 room # 125
 32 weeks remaining \$9 K
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quinta Beach Resort
 Eagle Beach
 Town House
 2 Bedroom 2 Bath
 Week # 9 room # 212
 Price : \$ 12 K
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Resort
 Eagle beach
 1 BR WK 8 room # 4561
 4 th floor pool view
 Price : \$9 K
 Call : 011 -297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Destination Points
 Palm Beach
 For sale at :\$ 6 a points
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

218031

Ambassador suites
 Eagle beach
 1 BR WK 7 R# 1133 \$ 7800
 1 BR WK 9 R# 1431 \$ 8400
 1 BR WK11 R# 1329 \$8400
 1 BR WK11 R# 1326 \$8400
 1 BR WK11 R# 1428 \$8400
 Call : 011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites
 Eagle beach
 1 BR WK # 12 R# 1430 \$8400
 1 BR WK # 12 R# 1233 \$8400
 1 BR WK # 12 R # 1428 \$8400
 1 BR WK # 12 R# 1328 \$8000
 2 BR WK # 12 R# 1505 \$18,000
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Property land
 Sero Colorado
 Ocean view Baby Beach
 1875 m2 (20182,332 sq feet)
 Price : \$ 421,350
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA (Halley Time Travel Aruba)
 Looking to purchase for our clients
 Marriott surf club and Ocean Club
 All Size of units and Season
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites
 Private islands
 1 BR WK # 15 room # 2111
 Ground floor pool/ ocean view
 Price : \$ 9 K
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Halley Time Travel Aruba
 To All Time - Share owners
 That are interested in selling
 Your Time - Share in Aruba
 Contact the experts 37 years
 Of doing honest business
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance ocean suites
 Private islands
 1 BR WK # 7 Room # 2144
 Ground floor harbor /ocean view
 1 BR WK # 7 Room # 2126
 Grond floor Harbor / Ocean
 Price : \$12,500 each
 Call :011-297-630-1307
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

218025



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
 Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
 Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
 Trupiaal : Tel.583 8560
 San Lucas:Tel. 584 5119

Women in Difficulties

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Urgent Care 586 0448
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
 +297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
 Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
 Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
 Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
 Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/

Richonne rises in 'The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live' starring Andrew Lincoln and Danai Gurira

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —

Danai Gurira remembers a moment filming "The Walking Dead" which she now believes contributed to the future pairing of her character Michonne with Andrew Lincoln's Rick.

It was during season three, Gurira's first season on the show. The scene featured Lincoln, Steven Yeun, Norman Reedus, Lauren Cohan and Michael Rooker. Gurira recalls Michonne wielding her trademark samurai sword, ready to kill Rooker's character Merle. Lincoln's Rick stood in between Michonne and Merle, preventing Michonne from going too far.

"You said to me afterwards, 'It was like there was only the two of us in the scene,' Gurira reminded Lincoln in a recent sit-down interview with The Associated Press. "I was like, 'Yeah, that's kind of true... What was that about?'"

Moments like those that added up, leaving an impression on the cast, crew and fans, and inspiring the writers to diverge from the comics and unite the two fan favorite characters as a couple, known as Richonne.

Gurira and Lincoln return to "The Walking Dead" universe on Sunday in "The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live," debuting on both AMC and AMC+. The actors are executive producers, along with "The



Andrew Lincoln, left, and Danai Gurira, cast member and executive producers of "The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live," pose together at the premiere of the AMC series, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Walking Dead" Chief Content Officer Scott M. Gimple and others. The cast also includes Terry O'Quinn ("Lost"), Lesley-Ann Brandt ("Lucifer"), Craig Tate and Matthew August Jeffers.

In this sixth spin-off of the original show, viewers find Rick and Michonne still trying to find their way back to each other after being physically separated for years (or, the show's ninth season finale, when Lincoln departed.) The actors were careful to not reveal any spoilers, but spoke about their characters, the original series and working together. Answers have been condensed for clarity and brevity.

AP: Andrew, for the nine seasons you were on the original series, it's been said you had a producer-like role and took a greater interest in the show as a whole. That all encompassing role must have been very taxing at the time.

LINCOLN: I used to come home exhausted after eight months and it took about two weeks to decompress because it was such a sort of monastic effort of just control day to day, to not miss a scene, "Let's make sure we lock this down. let's make sure we do this right." I (left the show), had two, three years and then COVID and all that, but I missed it. I missed that responsibility.

And then I started to get less and less respect in my house from my children. And they know all of my best jokes. They know my worldview. I've got no currency in my household, so really, I want to get some creds back with my family.

AP: Danai, you joined the show in season three when it was already a hit. The Michonne character was well-known to the comic readers but were you nervous about how your version would be received?
Do you remember how you felt at the time?

GURIRA: I really, really wanted the Michonne role and was surprised I'd never come across the story of

her before, I thought she was just such an interesting Black woman. I'd never seen a character like her and (as a playwright), I'm busy trying to write Black women. The show was already a juggernaut so it was scary. And not just because she was already this cool character that deserved justice, but also because these guys had already done all this work. Also, I'd never watched the show. I'm a scaredy cat. I don't watch that stuff. I don't watch horror, I don't watch zombies ... but I had to watch it and I was like, "Oh, this is so not about zombies." And sometimes as a writer you just want to write, but I wanted to be a part of that. Then it was like, "Now this four-foot sword and me have to become friends."

AP: Andrew, from the pilot episode, the character of Rick was the heartbeat of the show. Viewers obviously loved him, but what are your thoughts on Rick?

LINCOLN: I love him a lot. I miss playing him. I missed his heart. There was a quote that I loved: A hero is a man who does what he can. I think that's him.

AP: Danai, do you think Andrew shares some of Rick's leadership qualities?

GURIRA: Andy definitely was very much a leader on the set, and set the tone and set the energy. There was no ego on the set because he didn't have an ego. □

Alice Paul Tapper to publish picture book inspired by medical misdiagnosis

NEW YORK (AP) — The new book from bestselling author Alice Paul Tapper, daughter of CNN anchor Jake Tapper, was inspired by a near-fatal health emergency.

"Use Your Voice," with illustrations by Fanny Liem, is a fictionalized take on Alice's hospitalization in 2021 after she experienced intense stomach pain, chills and vomiting what turned out to be appendicitis. Doctors misdiagnosed her condition as a viral infection and only gave her an ultrasound, which revealed she had a perforated appendix leaking poisonous bacteria, after Jake Tapper pleaded with the hospital's administrator.

Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, will release "Use Your Voice" on Aug. 27, the author's 17th

birthday.

"I am so excited to share this book and empower kids visiting the hospital, a place that can be scary for everyone, not just children," Alice Paul Tapper said in a statement Wednesday. "The characters in the book who are part of the pain chart are my way of showing my thought process from when I was sick, and I hope readers enjoy them while also understanding the need to listen to their own bodies."

Tapper is also the author of "Raise Your Hand," a 2019 bestseller about the need for girls to be heard in the classroom. □



This image provided by Penguin Random House shows the cover for "Use Your Voice" by Alice Paul Tapper. Associated Press

Amid a wide-open playoff race, a wide-open NBA MVP race might be brewing as well

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The new rule that rendered Philadelphia's Joel Embiid ineligible for a second consecutive NBA MVP award because he's missing too many games has the potential to create something the league hasn't seen in almost two decades. That would be a wide-open MVP race.

Steve Nash won the MVP award for the 2005-06 season with only 46% of the first-place votes, marking the last time somebody won the NBA's top individual honor without having his name atop more than half of the ballots.

The winner in every season since has gotten at least 50% of the first-place votes and Stephen Curry even got 100% when he was MVP in 2016. This year sure seems like it could go differently, with several players in the realistic mix coming out of the All-Star break.

"There's a lot of guys," Boston forward Jaylen Brown said. "Who knows what the actual criteria is, to how it goes. I've had questions about a lot of different things that goes into stuff. But, you know, I guess we'll see." Denver's Nikola Jokic



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) looks to shoot over Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) during the second half of an NBA All-Star basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

certainly could end up with the award for the third time in four years. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo may be in the mix for his third MVP as well. Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was fifth last season and should be higher this year. Dallas' Luka Doncic will likely be on plenty of ballots. If the Los Angeles Clippers keep playing the

way they have been over the last couple months, don't be surprised if a case gets made for Kawhi Leonard.

"Kawhi should definitely be in that conversation," Clippers forward Paul George said. "But there's a lot of guys. You talk about Shai, you talk about Luka, you talk about Jokic. There's a lot of guys out West and

even out East, there's a lot of guys doing a hell of a job representing their team." Brown believes his Celtics teammate Jayson Tatum should be atop the MVP list. It's a reasonable argument; Tatum is the best player on the team with the best record in the league and his averages of 27 points, nearly nine rebounds and nearly five assists per game

certainly merit award consideration. A player has finished a season with those averages 26 times over the years; of those, nine have won that season's MVP award.

Except this season, there are at least two other players — Doncic and Antetokounmpo — averaging that many points, rebounds and assists. Embiid was as well before he got hurt; it's unclear when or if he'll be back, but even if he does return he won't be eligible for the MVP and probably won't meet the threshold to rank among statistical leaders, either. Part of the challenge of selecting an MVP is this: There's no absolute definition. To some, it might mean "best player." To others, it might mean "most valuable to his team." And if that's the case, it might be time to look at Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell.

The Cavs are an NBA-best 23-5 since mid-December. They're currently No. 2 in the Eastern Conference, when probably very few thought they'd be there. Mitchell is averaging 28.4 points, 6.3 assists, 5.4 rebounds and 1.9 steals — all career-highs. □

James Blake, the Miami Open tournament director, was fined for betting sponsorship ties

LONDON (AP) — Miami Open tournament director and former Top 10 player James Blake was fined \$56,250 for violating tennis's rules about betting sponsorship, the International Tennis Integrity Agency announced Wednesday. The London-based ITIA said the violation was unintentional and Blake "co-operated fully with the investigation and did not contest the charge."

If Blake breaks the rules again during an 18-month probationary period that began on Feb. 9, the agency said, he would be

subject to an 18-month suspension and an additional fine of \$131,250.

The sport bars people from having commercial relationships with gambling companies. In 2022, U.S. Davis Cup team coaches Mardy Fish and Bob Bryan were fined \$10,000 apiece for promoting a gambling operator via social media. "This case is more a matter of perception, rather than corruption," ITIA CEO Karen Moorhouse said. "The rules apply to players, coaches, officials and accredited tournament staff who all have the ability to influ-

ence results or have access to inside information."

Blake has been the tournament director of the Miami Open since 2018. The event will be held next month. He retired as a player in 2013 after winning 10 singles titles, getting to a career-best No. 4 in the ATP rankings and reaching the quarterfinals at three Grand Slam tournaments. Blake, who attended Harvard before turning pro in 1999, helped the United States beat Russia in the 2007 Davis Cup final for the country's most recent title in that team event. □



James Blake, director of the Miami Open tennis tournament, smiles after the singles final Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Premium talent is still available on MLB's free-agent market, but GMs don't seem in a hurry

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Baseball Writer
GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)

— Cleveland's new manager, Stephen Vogt, isn't sure why this year's free agent market has entered a deep freeze even as temperatures heat up during spring training in Arizona and Florida.

He just wants to see it thaw as quickly as possible.

"Those guys should be in camp," Vogt said. "I don't know who is at fault, I don't know why, I don't need to know. But our game's at its best when the best players are on the field.

"I hope those guys sign soon."



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Blake Snell throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

The guys Vogt is referring to are a half-dozen high-quality free agents who remain unsigned as the calendar nears March.

The resumes are impressive: two-time Cy Young Award-winning lefty Blake Snell, former MVP Cody Bellinger, six-time All-Star J.D. Martinez, four-time Gold Glove third baseman Matt Chapman, two-time All-Star shortstop Tim Anderson and left-hander Jordan Montgomery, who helped the Rangers to a World Series title last fall.

Vogt of course doesn't make front-office decisions. However, 15 of the 30 general managers who do were at Cactus League media day on Tuesday.

Nobody seemed particularly desperate to make moves.

"It ebbs and flows, but there have been years, like I remember I was in Cleveland, and we signed Nick Swisher and Michael Bourn late in camp," Cubs general manager Carter Hawkins said.

"So it's not out of the ordinary."

This year's free-agent market peaked in December, when the Los Angeles Dodgers spent more than \$1 billion to sign two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani and right-handed pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto. The defending National League champion Arizona Diamondbacks were also among the teams active early, signing lefty Eduardo Rodriguez to an \$80 million, four-year deal.

D-backs general manager Mike Hazen said he didn't want to speculate on other teams' strategies.

"I can't answer for everybody else," Hazen said.

"I feel like we've made a decent amount of transactions.

We're looking to help build our team any way we can and we've ended up getting a couple of deals done." □



Palm Beach, Aruba

Come and join the FUN!

Everyday from 10am till 6pm

We have DOUBLE points

BINGO

Play Every Day

Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Operations Hours

Slots: 10am

Table: 4pm



Slot Play \$10

Match Play \$15



Sign up and become a VIP Member.

ID required upon redemption!



Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on